CITYNEWS

DECEMBER 2006 FROM THE CITY OF VANCOUVER

Holiday Hours

For the holiday season, the City Hall buildings (453 West 12th Avenue, the East Wing at 2675 Yukon Street, and 515 West 10th Avenue) will be closed from December 22 at 12 noon through January 1. We will reopen at 8:30 am on January 2.

For a more detailed list of holiday hours for City services, see **vancouver.ca** under "What's New".

UPDATE ON VANCOUVER'S 2010 WINTER GAMES PREPARATIONS

IN JUST OVER three years, Vancouver will have the rare privilege of playing host to the Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games.

This will be a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity for us. Vancouver will become the temporary home of thousands of athletes, volunteers and media. We will host more than 250,000 visitors, and the images of our city will be seen on television by millions of people around the world. This is our chance to be proud of our beautiful and diverse city, and promote what is unique about Vancouver and the people who live and work here.

The benefits to our community from the 2010 Winter Games are enormous. The City is able to build and upgrade a number of facilities and offset a large portion of those costs with funding from other partners. These facilities will be turned back over to the community for everyone to enjoy once the Winter Games are over. Vancouver will also get a new convention centre that for years to come will attract large conferences, and the tourism money that comes with those visitors.

However, the Games are more than just an opportunity to secure better facilities. They also represent a chance for our city to use the Games as a catalyst to create some unique and positive working relationships and legacies.

As part of our commitment to be inclusive, your City government will work with citizens of all ages, backgrounds and abilities, and with our business community to encourage involvement before and during the Games.

As part of our commitment to hold sustainable games, Vancouver will promote ways to help protect the environment, and ensure long-term economic and social benefits to our citizens.

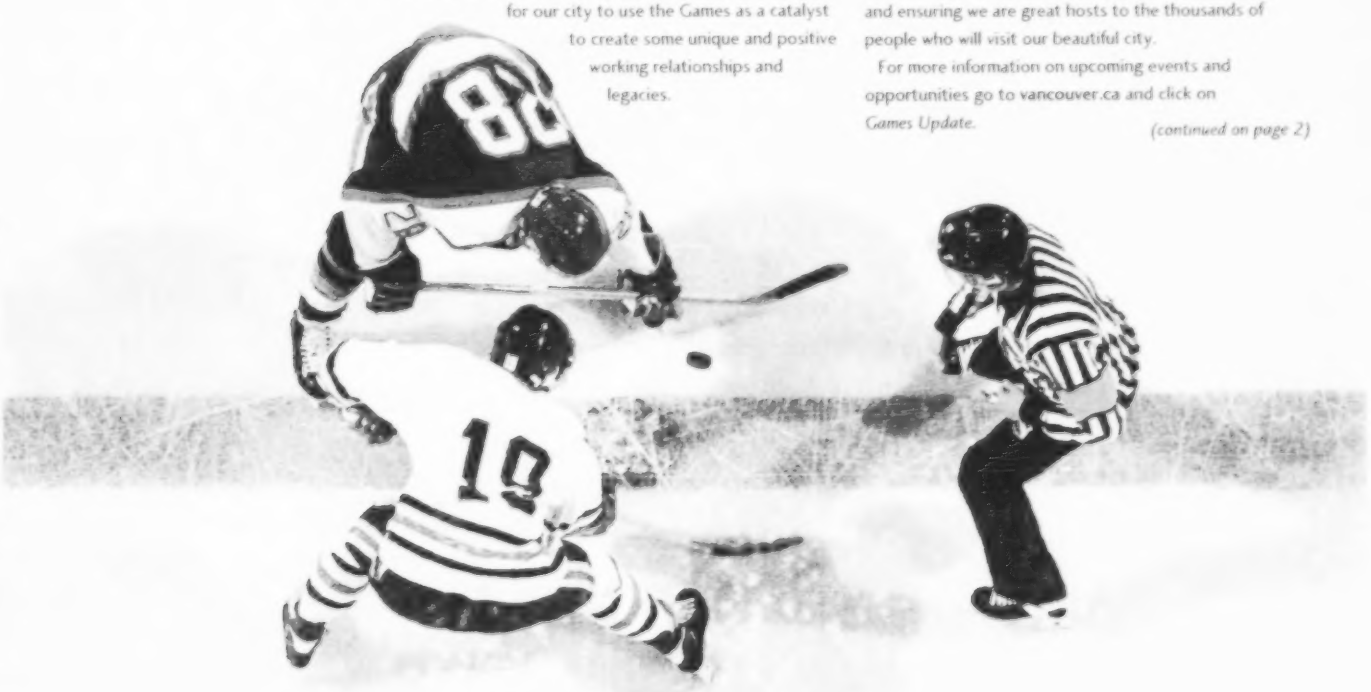
And as part of our commitment to be an excellent host, the City will work with neighbourhoods, community groups and businesses to ensure visitors have an interesting experience, see many parts of our city, and generally feel welcomed by a safe, clean and festive atmosphere.

Already, the City has done a lot of work with its partners to get the venue renovations and construction underway (see page 2).

Now it's time to start turning to other types of preparations: involving all types of citizens and businesses in the 2010 Winter Games; encouraging sustainable practices and legacies in everything we do; and ensuring we are great hosts to the thousands of people who will visit our beautiful city.

For more information on upcoming events and opportunities go to **vancouver.ca** and click on *Games Update*.

(continued on page 2)



UPDATE ON VENUES

A NUMBER OF Olympic and Paralympic venues are planned for the Vancouver area. Here is an update on those facilities.

HILLCREST/NAT BAILEY STADIUM PARK (Curling Facility)

The design has been approved for this 100,000 square-foot, 6,000-seat curling facility, which is currently in the development permit stage. Construction is scheduled to start February 2007 with expected completion by late 2008. After the Games, the curling venue will be converted into the new Riley Park Community Centre, a library, the Vancouver Curling Club and a public ice rink. The new Percy Norman Pool will be part of this complex.

KILLARNEY ICE RINK

A new ice rink at Killarney Community Centre will serve as an Olympic practice facility. The design has been approved and the project is in the development permit stage. Construction is scheduled to start March 2007 and finish by September 2008.

TROUT LAKE ICE RINK

A new ice rink at Trout Lake Community Centre will serve as an Olympic practice facility. Work is progressing on a schematic design in preparation for the development permit application. Construction is expected to start by mid 2007 with completion by February 2009.

PACIFIC COLISEUM

The Coliseum is undergoing various upgrades including replacement of the spectator seats and widening of the ice surface, which are now finished. The rest will be completed over the next two years. During 2010, the facility will be used for figure skating and short-track speed skating.

UBC ICE RINK

A new centre will be built on the site of the existing Thunderbird Winter Sport Complex. The redevelopment includes refurbishing the existing arena and constructing two new rinks, one of which will be used in training, the other will become a 7,000-seat competition facility. Construction began in April 2006 and will be completed by spring 2008.

OLYMPIC VILLAGE

Work on the Olympic Village area of Southeast False Creek kicked into high gear over the summer. Rip rap was placed on the shoreline. Excavation for the island, the intertidal area, roads, sewer, water and other utilities began, and is expected to be completed in March 2007. Excavation for building construction will start in January 2007. Council also approved rezoning for the site, and named three new streets – Walter Hardwick Avenue, Salt Street, and Athletes Way – that commemorate the past of the SEFC site and its future.

VANCOUVER CONVENTION CENTRE

This will be the site of the international broadcast centre during 2010.

Pile driving was completed in 2006, and contracts were awarded for foundation, glass and structural steel. As well, a Surrey firm was awarded the contract to grow the new centre's living roof. ■

Don't forget on collection day

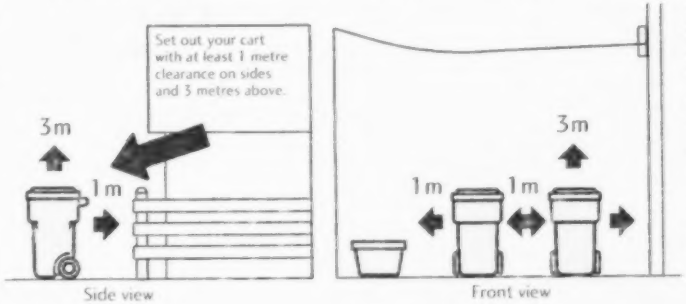
- Set your cart out by 7 am in the lane or street you normally use (unless we have instructed you otherwise).
- Place it so the arrow on the lid points toward the lane or street (handle and wheels will face your property).
- Space it. Place your cart so there is at least 1 metre (3 feet) of space on all sides and 3 metres (10 feet) of clearance above.

Questions?
Website: vancouver.ca/garbage
E-mail: recycle@vancouver.ca
Phone: 604.326.4600

Out with the old

Old garbage cans that get knocked over, and garbage bags that fall apart are now mostly a thing of the past, since the City finished supplying new garbage and yard trimmings carts this summer to all households that receive City collection service.

The conversion to an automated collection system took place between October 2005 and July 2006. Homes were supplied with wheeled carts that trucks with special mechanical arms can lift and empty. While it was a big change for residents and sanitation crews, the automated collection system has been a welcome addition to City services. A random phone survey in September 2006 revealed that about 85 per cent of residents polled preferred the new garbage and yard trimmings cart collection system over the old-style garbage cans and bags collection. Workers have experienced a 53 per cent reduction in injuries; 61 per cent fewer sick time hours; and a 74 per cent reduction in work hours lost due to injury when comparing 2006 statistics to 2002-2005 averages. All these have added up to about $200,000 a year in Workers Compensation and sick time cost savings for the City.



VANCOUVER'S COMMITMENT TO HOUSING

LIKE MANY OTHER large cities, one of the most urgent challenges Vancouver faces is housing. While we are consistently ranked as one of the world's most livable cities, we are also encountering growing problems: a soaring real estate market, low vacancy rates in our rental market, and a lack of affordable accommodation. Consequently, homelessness is on the rise.

The City of Vancouver takes the issue of affordable housing and homelessness seriously, but unfortunately, this is not a problem we can solve totally on our own. Cities collect only eight cents of every tax dollar, so it is clear that senior levels of government need to help finance affordable housing.

The City's main role in helping provide affordable housing has been to offer land. Through the City's Housing Centre, 19 vacant sites across the city have been purchased or optioned and earmarked for social housing, with one site being purchased in 2006. However, without funds from other governments, these sites have had to wait to be developed.

Meanwhile, there is some good news. Over the next few years, more than 500 units of low-income housing, including 250 units in the Olympic Village and more at Woodward's, will become available.

The City has also just launched the EcoDensity initiative, which will explore ways to increase housing supply in a way that is environmentally sustainable, and also promotes livable communities and affordability.

The City also recently commissioned some work to see how we might be able to encourage private sector and community investment in affordable housing – particularly housing needed for those with mental illness and drug addiction.

Lastly, under the Inner-City Inclusivity Initiative, the City, together with the province, federal government, and the Vancouver Organizing Committee for the 2010 Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games (VANOC), is committed to no displacement of its inner-city residents as a result of the 2010 Winter Games. The Initiative is exploring ways to maximize benefits and minimize harm to Vancouver's inner-city neighbourhoods, namely, Downtown South, the Downtown Eastside, and Mount Pleasant.

For more information, visit **vancouver.ca/housing** and **vancouver.ca/Olympics** ■

Students from Eric Hamber Elementary School along with City officials help kick off Active Communities Vancouver

RESIDENTS CHALLENGED TO STEP IT UP

MAKE ACTIVE LIVING your goal. The City and the Vancouver Park Board have launched the Active Communities program to inspire and encourage citizens to get physically active in fun and easy ways. The goal is to support residents in becoming 20 per cent more active by 2010, and help Vancouver become one of the fittest and healthiest communities to ever host an Olympic and Paralympic Games.

Fun events such as *Step Out* walks in parks and on trails, *Fitness and Adventure Passports* for children, *Athletes in Vancouver* partnerships, a new website, and other special events will create opportunities for everyone to be more active. Other successful and popular programs aimed at getting residents of all ages moving include *GetOut!*, driven by youth to get them more active in sports, recreation and the arts; *Go Play!*, which promotes affordable and accessible recreation at neighbourhood rinks, pools and fitness centres; and MoreSports, which offers organized sport development to children and youth in the inner city.

For more information:
website **vancouverparks.ca**
phone **604.257.8400** or e-mail **pbcomment@vancouver.ca** ■

GVTV

New time, the same interesting, informative show about the people, places and issues in your region.

Watch the City's news magazine program *GVTV* on: Shaw Cable 4 on Tuesdays at 10 pm or 12:30 am (repeats Mondays at 2:30 pm), on Delta Cable on Wednesdays at 5:30 pm and Thursdays at 6 pm; and on Novus Cable daily at 8:30 am, 12 pm, 5 pm and 11 pm.

You can also see the stories online at **gvtv.ca** and explore the comprehensive story archive where you can watch past segments.

gvtv

Sewer line cleaning

Did you know the City of Vancouver provides sewer line cleaning? If you experience flooding or suspect your sewer line is plugged, you can call our dispatcher anytime at **604.326.4680**.

Our knowledgeable crews and staff are on hand to keep your flow on the go.

Please note, depending on the cause of the blockage, there may be charges associated with our service.

For more information:
vancouver.ca/engsvcs/watersewers

Turn off your engine

Remember to turn off your engine when you're parked. Unnecessary idling wastes fuel and money, pollutes the air, and contributes to climate change.

It also uses more fuel than turning your engine on and off, and restarting won't have a significant impact on the starter.

Idling a vehicle for three minutes or more when it's not in traffic is prohibited under the City of Vancouver's Idling Bylaw, which was enacted in July. The basic fine for violations is $50, or $100 for heavy trucks and for unlocked, unattended idling vehicles. (Vehicles that are idling to power equipment for commercial or public service purposes are exempt.) If you have problems with vehicles idling in front of your home or workplace call the Idling Complaint Hotline at **604.257.2404**.

For more information:
www.idlefree.ca

ON TOP The City was chosen as one of Canada's top 100 employers in *Maclean's* magazine's 2006 rankings. The City was chosen from a field of 1,500 other employers who were ranked according to categories such as work atmosphere, health/family benefits, continuing education and professional development, and community involvement. For more on jobs at the City: **vancouver.ca/jobs**

AWARD-WINNING PLANS The City was the winner of a Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM)-CH2M HILL Sustainable Community Award for its ambitious Southeast False Creek Sustainable Transportation Strategies. The SEFC site is being redeveloped into a sustainable community for an estimated 12,000-16,000 people by 2020.The SEFC plan's road design will give top priority to pedestrians and cyclists, followed by transit, service vehicles and automobiles. Once all the strategies are implemented, it's forecast that at least 60 per cent of daily trips by residents will be made without a car and produce 25 to 50 per cent fewer greenhouse gas emissions than other similar urban neighbourhoods.

For more information: **vancouver.ca/olympicvillage** ■

PAY BY PHONE HITS PARKING METERS

YOU'VE PARKED YOUR car at a meter but have no change. Your appointment ran long and your meter is running out. Who you gonna call?

You can call **604.909.PARK**, the number for the City's on-street pay-by-phone parking system.

The City has partnered with Verrus Communications to apply the system to all 7,900 street parking meters in the city. To use the service, first-time customers either go online at **vancouver.ca/paybyphone** to set up an account, or phone **604.909.7275 (PARK)**. A cellular phone, credit card, and vehicle licence plate number are required to register. Once you're registered, initiating a parking session should take about 20 seconds. Customers are charged 30 cents per transaction along with the parking fee. A text message reminder is also sent to your phone 10 minutes before your time expires. You can add more time, within the allowable limits, by phone instead of running back to the meter.

The service uses real-time wireless technologies so that as soon as a customer starts their parking session at a meter, that information is relayed to parking enforcement officers who can see on their hand-held computers that a vehicle has paid at a certain meter.

Since the service was launched in June, up to a thousand transactions a day have been completed. More than 16,000 different users have dialed the system, with an average of 130 new customers each day. It's the first large-scale roll-out of the service in North America. Next phases of the program include pre-paid accounts, and fleet accounts for businesses.

Find out more: **vancouver.ca/paybyphone** ■

SEPARATING SOUNDS

AT THE QUEEN Elizabeth Theatre this past summer, the usual sounds of music and audience applause were replaced by drilling and hammering as the first stage of the Renew the Legacy project was completed. The $5.9-million acoustic separation of the QET and the Playhouse puts the theatre one step closer to completing this three-year improvement project.

The QET was built in 1959, and the Vancouver Playhouse three years later. They have always shared a wall that adequately prevented sound leaking from one theatre to another at the time. But today's new technologically advanced sound systems present a much bigger challenge.

The acoustic separation construction work began after the 2005/06 season and was completed on time and on budget for 2006/07 season. Workers cut away the concrete walls and floors that touched the QET on the Playhouse side, leaving a 7.6 cm air space between the buildings. A large concrete shaft was built in the Playhouse lobby containing an elevator shaft to seismically reinforce the separated Playhouse. Although mechanical and electrical conduits and ducts still travel between the buildings, they are heavily insulated to prevent sound transmission.

The two distinct acoustic venues now allow loud shows such as rock concerts to perform in the QET while a play runs uninterrupted at the same time in the Playhouse.

The rest of the Legacy project, including new balconies, boxes and a redesigned lobby area, is set to begin during the summer of 2007 and 2008, pending financial commitments from provincial and federal governments. ■

Greening the Hall

This Christmas, City Hall is giving a gift to the environment. In December, renovations to improve energy efficiency and reduce greenhouse gas emissions generated by the City's corporate operations will be complete.

The energy-saving retrofits include lighting upgrades, replacement of the 1936 boiler, cooling system improvements, building automation system upgrades, and water conservation measures. When completed, these improvements will result in: an annual reduction of 320 tonnes in greenhouse gas emissions – an 18 per cent decrease from 1990 levels (equivalent to removing 62 cars from the road); savings of approximately $120,756 annually (based on current utility rates); electrical energy savings of 1,148,278 kilowatt hours annually (a 19 per cent reduction); natural gas savings of 4,196 gigajoules annually (a 31 per cent reduction); and water savings of 15,080 cubic metres.

Similar projects for the City's other corporate facilities, including the Park Board, will be presented to Council in 2007.The renovations are part of the City's Corporate Climate Change Action Plan, which aims to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from corporate operations to 20 per cent below 1990 levels by 2010.

For more information: **vancouver.ca/sustainability**

Get in touch with the City

vancouver.ca/intouch.html

Multilingual phone lines

For more information about the City in these languages, call:

資料查詢
604.871.6868

Hỏi chi tiết
604.871.6969

ਜਾਣਕਾਰੀ ਲਵੋ
604.871.6565

Obtenga Información
604.871.6464

CITYNEWS is published twice a year with tax notices by the City's Communications Division (604.873.7276), to update Vancouver residents on the many programs and services provided by the City. These services include police, fire and rescue, libraries, parks and community centres, planning and land use, theatres, archives, garbage collection and recycling, water and sewer service, and transportation.

CITY OF VANCOUVER

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